

Montana State Legislature

2011 Session

Exhibit 3

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Main Street

M O N T A N A

5 BUILDING STRONGER TRIBAL ECONOMIES

Discover the international market that exists within Montana's borders.

12 BRINGING IT ALL HOME

Finding ways to bring solutions to local economies.

18 WE ARE MONTANANS

Commerce Director Tony Preite, homegrown in Havre, proves you can go home again.





With this second addition of the newly revised **Main Street Montana** magazine, the Montana Department of Commerce is proud to join the fine work of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry. Governor Schweitzer has provided the leadership to use the resources of government in support of business expansion and economic development, and this publication is another example of this effort.

It is our hope that existing businesses, together with those that take root in 2006, will seize this opportunity to get to know a little bit more about Montana state government and the services that support our diverse business community. Nine out of ten Montana businesses employ less than five persons, and any small business faces special challenges to compete in the global marketplace. We celebrate the successes of our business community every day, and we hope to use this publication to highlight our state's many wonderful companies and organizations. If you have a story to relate, drop us a line at **MainStreet@mt.gov**.

For this spring edition of **Main Street Montana** we are highlighting a part of our state very near and dear to my heart: Hill County and my hometown of Havre. It has been said that Montana is 'one big small town.' I believe this to be very true and I take great pride in knowing that our work involves neighbors helping neighbors. We look forward to meeting and working with even more of our neighbors this year.

Tony Preite

Tony Preite, Director
Montana Department of Commerce

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2 COMMERCE DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

4 CONTRIBUTORS

5 INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Discover the international market that exists within Montana's borders.

6 IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Helena Industries proves that hope comes in a special package. Montana Campus Corps members are out of this world!

8 THE DREAMCATCHERS

From past to present - Spotlight on Montana's reservations - watch as they inspire the next generation of resource builders.

10 BUSINESS FACTS

Helpful hints - the pros and cons of employee hour reductions, how to WOW your employer, how to prepare for a contested case hearing, and how we're closing the loop on elevator safety.

12 HELPING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Grants to assist your local business, community, and the folks that make it happen in Hill County.

14 TOP 10

You may have visited *Havre Beneath the Streets*, now meet the folks causing the activity on the streets.

18 WE ARE MONTANANS

Commerce Director Tony Preite, a native of Havre, proves you can go home again.

19 TRACKING HAVRE'S ECONOMY

All Aboard! Destination: Hill County --- from boxcars to big box stores.

21 STUDENTS FOR HIRE

See how students are making the grade at work.

23 BUSINESS CORNER

Take your business to the NxLevel. Down about your Main Street? Discover how you can upgrade your town.

25 OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Collaboration is the fuel that drives our future workforce. What's good for Montana's workers is good for Montana business.

27 WHAT'S ON TAP?

Upcoming events you won't want to miss.

Front cover photo credit:

Buttrey's Delivery Wagon 1912, Havre, MT
Courtesy of the Montana Historical Society

Inside cover photo credit:

Marietta's Jerk Line Team for Hauling Grain, 1915 or 1916, Havre, MT
Courtesy of the Montana Historical Society



Table of Contents middle photo:

Courtesy of Donnie Sexton, Travel Montana, Department of Commerce

Table of Contents bottom photo:

Courtesy of Adam Pimley, Governor's Office

Inside back cover photo credit:

Havre, Montana, Bar Room scene, early 1900's

Photographer unidentified

Courtesy of the Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana

Back cover photo credit:

Havre Beneath the Streets, Bartender Chair

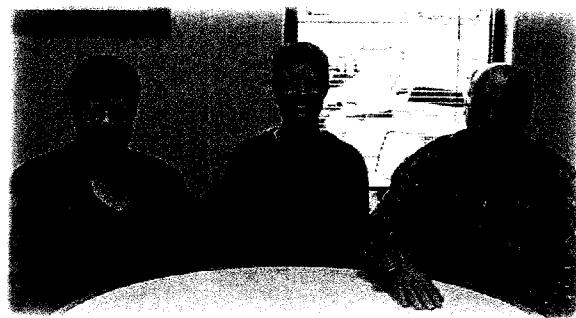
Courtesy of Donnie Sexton, Travel Montana, Department of Commerce



The Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity serves to advise the governor on policy issues related to economic development; lead the state's business recruitment, retention, expansion, and start-up efforts; and serve as the state's primary economic development liaison between federal, state, and local agencies, Montana tribal governments, private nonprofit economic development organizations and the private sector.

The Business Standards Division (BSD) adopts and enforces minimum building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, energy, elevator and boiler codes for use throughout Montana; approves and certifies local government code enforcement programs; and consists of four bureaus: Building Codes Bureau, Business and Occupational Licensing Bureau, Health Care Licensing Bureau and Weights and Measures Bureau.

Business Resources Division (BRD) The Business Resources Division (partially shown) is comprised of a variety of programs aimed at improving, enhancing, and diversifying Montana's economic and business climate. Working closely with the private sector, the Governor's Office, our economic and community development partners, other department divisions, state agencies, and federal and private programs, the division strives to enhance the economic base of Montana through business creation, expansion, and retention efforts.



The Unemployment Insurance Division (UID) provides technical assistance and guidance to unemployed workers and employers to process and pay benefit claims and file quarterly wage reports in an accurate, efficient and timely manner. Unemployment Insurance is financed by employers and held in trust for workers when they are unemployed through no fault of their own.



Community Development Division (CDD) The Community Development Division provides financial resources and technical assistance to Montana communities to help improve critical infrastructure, provide for decent and affordable housing for low and moderate income families, revitalize neighborhoods, ensure community planning and growth management, and mediate impacts from coal or hard rock mining and related development.

The Workforce Services Division (WSD) provides all Montanans with access to a free labor exchange system, comprised of Internet resources and a network of local Workforce Centers, providing assistance to job seekers and employers who need to fill jobs in-state and nationwide; administers registered apprenticeship and training programs; offers assistance to individuals receiving unemployment benefits; and collects and disseminates labor market information and employment statistics.

The Governor's Office of Community Service (OCS) is a diverse, non-partisan, Governor-appointed body representing a broad cross-section of community service interests and statewide leadership. OCS seeks to renew the ethic of civic responsibility by encouraging citizens of all ages and backgrounds to engage in service; involving youth in the life and work of communities; and expand service opportunities in Montana.

Editors

Christie Wolfe
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BUILDING STRONGER TRIBAL ECONOMIES

Author: Major Robinson

As participants in the international market since the first day Europeans stepped foot on their tribal homelands, Indian Nations throughout history have been involved in economic development. History proves that the Indian Nations of Montana were involved with traders from three countries before Lewis and Clark trooped through their homeland

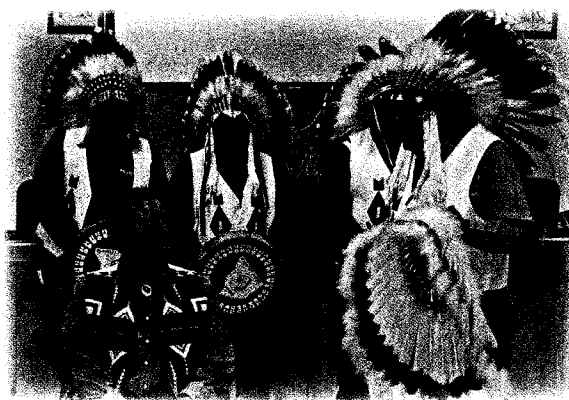
Governor Schweitzer said, "The first step in building stronger economies for both the State of Montana and Indian Nations is to forge a framework of trust. This is done by investing our time and resources to build lasting partnerships. Our mutual understanding of the business challenges Tribes encounter at home will foster effective strategies to address them."

Within his first six months of office, the Governor and his staff traveled to seven Montana Indian reservations for government-to-government diplomacy meetings. Additionally, Chief Business Officer Evan Barrett and staff from the Governor's Office of Economic Development were charged with viewing and hearing first hand accounts of the challenges Indian Nations of Montana face in developing their tribal economies today. Barrett and several staff members traveled throughout the state to meet with over twenty tribal-affiliated economic development organizations, from grassroots organizations to more structured public Tribal enterprises.

Tribal representatives shared essential information with respect to current economic challenges, resources, and proposed future growth. Tribal leaders disclosed their most viable assets -- the available human, natural, cultural and structural resources that each tribe possesses. They also outlined their concepts for economic growth and current projects in progress.

As early as 2005, the Governor began forming the foundation for tribal economic growth by ensuring the continued operational funding of the ten-member State Tribal Economic Development (STED) Commission. Originally established in 1999, the Commission, in jeopardy of being terminated, was continued for another four years and granted funding during the 2005 Legislature. The Commission's purpose is to provide a means for Tribal communities to work more effectively with the State of Montana to enhance and stimulate tribal rural economies.

The STED Commission is comprised of one representative from each of the eight Indian Nations in Montana and one representative each from the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs and the Department of Commerce. The STED Commission members include: Caroline Brown (Ft. Belknap), Robert Gauthier (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes), Lawrence "Jace" Killsback (Northern Cheyenne), Marilyn Parsons (Blackfeet), Shawn Real Bird (Crow), Noel Sansaver



Blackfeet Nation honoring Governor Schweitzer

(Fort Peck), Jonathan Windy Boy (Rocky Boy's), Reno Charette (Crow), Coordinator of Indian Affairs, and Andy Poole (Dept. of Commerce).

"Tribes offer a unique opportunity for the state to build successful business partnerships, which in turn helps all Montanans," said Noel Sansaver, an Assiniboine/Sioux from the Fort Peck Reservation and Chairman of the STED Commission. "We appreciate the positive partnership we have with Governor Schweitzer's administration, but we are not looking for a handout."

"With the one million dollars in funding Governor Schweitzer successfully secured with the help of Commerce and the 2005 Legislature, we can significantly enhance Indian economic development throughout Montana," said Sansaver. Each Commission member, in partnership with their Tribal Office of Economic Development, has actively worked toward identifying their tribes' business development priorities for funding and has begun the process of leveraging Commerce monies with other funding to move proposed projects forward.

The STED Commission also helped sponsor the Montana Indian Business Conference in Great Falls in February 2006. The conference was an opportunity for Tribal, State, Federal, private lending institutions and private Indian and non-Indian business owners to network with one another on the topic of Indian economic development. The Commission arranged to have the event sessions filmed and made available to those who could not attend. The DVDs will be available through the Governor's Coordinator of Indian Affairs office.

"Montana's economy will never be fully realized until all Montanans are included in the economic picture," said Evan Barrett, Governor Schweitzer's Chief Business Officer, "and that includes all the Tribes of Montana."

For more information about the Governor's work with Indian economic development issues, please contact Reno Charette, Coordinator of Indian Affairs, or Major Robinson, Governor's Economic Development Specialist at (406) 444-3111.

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Author: Michelle Robinson

Helena Industries, Inc., a Commission of Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) non-profit organization, has been an integral part of the Helena community since 1970. Its' business offices and production area encompass most of the 1300 block on both sides of Helena Avenue, just down the street from the railroad depot. Established for the purpose of providing vocational training to persons with disabilities, Helena Industries, Inc. has grown considerably over the past 35 years and now serves more than 600 people with disabilities annually through occupations in wood products, textile production - Benchmark Manufacturing, contracted janitorial services, Document Destruction Services, and the Mail Center.

What began in 1971 as a work area called Small Contracts making pine cone jewelry and laminated key chains has blossomed into a fully automated mailing center. The Mail Center provides sedentary work for employees that have less tolerance for standing, lifting, or bending. Workers remain busy stuffing envelopes, stapling forms and labeling outgoing material.

"I like the people I work for in the Mail Center. I want to work here forever," exclaims Peggy Chilton, a 30-year employee of the Mail Center. Chilton enjoys assisting businesses with their mailings. She's very proud to showcase her expertise in labeling and inserting.

According to Commissioner Keith Kelly of the Department of Labor and Industry, the department initiated an agreement with Helena Industries' Mail Center prior to the first publication of the Main Street Montana newsletter in 2000. Today, roughly 25 workers can be found placing labels on 80,000 units of Main Street Montana annually. "We're certainly not the only business in town employing their services," said Kelly. "Helena Industries covers a wide range of Helena area business correspondence, processing two million pieces of mail a year." Bulk mail services and cost-effective piecework yields a high cost benefit to both the business consumer and the work center clients.

"We offer training and employment at Helena Industries through a multitude of programs at our main campus, as well

as beyond our physical borders," said Mail Contracts Manager Lois Ciske. "Our Job Placement program has assisted more than 125 people find or retain community jobs throughout Helena last year and provided case management services to over 475 persons with developmental disabilities in nine counties throughout our offices in Butte, Bozeman, Anaconda and Great Falls."

The Supported Employment Program provides job coaching at work sites to assist individuals in learning their occupational duties and maintaining their employment. Helena Industries' job coaches work with employers to locate

jobs and match people with disabilities, based upon the skills and desires of the employee, to those jobs. The job coaches work with the employee to provide the training, assistance and support needed for the responsibilities and duties of the job to ensure success.

"Our newest program, Work First, serves

people with more severe disabilities, but still provides them with the opportunity to work and earn a paycheck," said Greg Olsen, Director of Programs.

In an effort to expand their service base, Helena Industries began the new program of service in March of 2004. The program is designed for persons who cannot or do not wish to work in the community or in one of the three on-site production areas.

"It is based on Helena Industries' mission of providing jobs in a real work environment, but recognizes that not everyone can or wants to work in the more traditional services offered over the past 35 years," said Olsen. The program offers individualized vocational activities and options that are shorter in duration and/or simpler to complete, including an internal mail and office supply delivery, copying of agency documents, refilling and maintaining first aid supplies, and limited facility maintenance.

To learn more about the services offered please call Helena Industries at 406-442-8632 or visit their website at www.helenaindustries.org. Interested in contracting the Mail Center for your business? Contact Lois Ciske at 406-449-4465.



MONTANA CAMPUS CORPS - SPACEWARD BOUND

Authors: Molly Collins, MTCC Campus Corps Program Manager & Dean McGovern, MTCC Executive Director

Space travel is one of the most amazing technological accomplishments of human existence. When a rocket engine sparks an *action*; the resulting *reaction* thrusts astronauts off the planet to help us explore, discover, and learn about new places and things as well as reach a deeper

understanding of our own lives and environment. If Montanans are going to explore other planets, orbit the Earth, or employ space-age technologies right here at home, our youth will need high aptitude in math and science. In fall 2005, Nancy Reuter, a Montana Campus Corps member, ignited a spark that has introduced the excitement and wonder of space travel to schoolchildren in the Dillon community.

As a student at the University of Montana-Western, Reuter signed on with the Montana Campus Compact's Campus Corps program to serve her community and develop her own professional skills. She attended an Inland Northwest Space Alliance meeting, approached the Southwestern Montana YMCA for sponsorship, began developing a curriculum, and started recruiting fellow college students to volunteer with her. "The results have been really amazing," said Roger Pelletier of the YMCA. "Nancy came to us wide-eyed and excited about this space curriculum. I told her that our community needed an after-school program for kids and so we gave it a try." Since then, Spaceward Bound has provided challenging, hands-on after-school activities including math, science, and engineering projects that have revealed the wonders of space exploration to youth in the Dillon area. The program uses various types of technology including computers, rockets, simulators, and programming robots to teach and tutor schoolchildren in math, science, and the principles of engineering.

Spaceward Bound allows traditionally underserved students in Beaverhead County to engage in activities, learn about future career opportunities available



The whole gang from the robotics session.

to them, meet real engineers, and foster strong math and science skills. Specifically, the program targets children in grades 3 through 5 and tries to maintain at least fifty percent female enrollment. Reuter says, "The kids that participate are all saying, 'It's cool to be smart!'"

Reuter's training as an MTCC Campus Corps member allowed her to develop a curriculum that builds on the students' natural curiosities and employs a discovery-based model tied to State and National Content Standards. After-school sessions have included topics such as Microgravity, Robotics, Aeronautics, and The Moon, Mars, and Beyond. At a special session, Mick Bowen, Aerospace Education Specialist at NASA's

Ames Research Center, captivated an audience of schoolchildren, college students, and UM-W professors with a lesson on the mechanics of robots.



*Mick Bowen and James
"The most excited astronaut I have ever seen!"
said Mr. Bowen*

Spaceward Bound is made possible through an AmeriCorps program grant to the Montana Campus Corps from the Montana Office of Community Service, a Division of the Department of Labor and Industry. Campus Corps is one of five AmeriCorps programs in

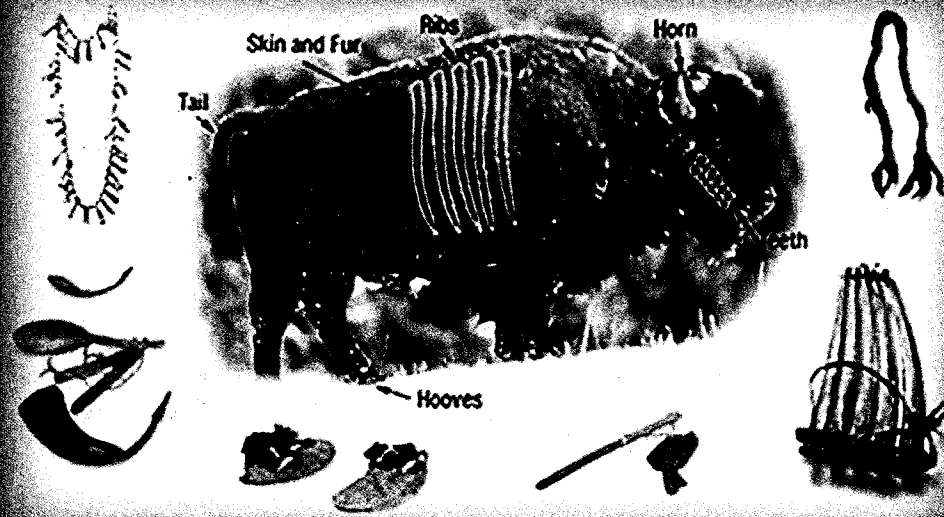
the state that receives corporation support for National and Community Service grants through the Montana OCS. In Campus Corps, members like Nancy Reuter can earn education awards for completing a set term of service to the community.

Montana communities benefit from the commitment and compassion of Campus Corps members. Whether they are teaching children to read in Poplar, collecting books for a school library in Butte, presenting the dangers of household chemicals in Kalispell, or launching kids into space in Dillon, MTCC's Campus Corps members are out of this world!

For more information about the Montana Campus Compact's Campus Corps Program, call (406) 243-5177 or visit www.mtcompact.org.

THE DREAMCATCHERS

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION





OF RESOURCE BUILDERS

CONTINUING TO "WOW" EMPLOYERS

Author: Lauren Wing

The first quarter of 2006 is a great time to start using WARP on the Web (WOW) to file Unemployment Insurance (UI) tax and wage reports online. WOW has experienced several improvements to make it easier for employers to file and pay UI taxes and submit wage records over the Internet.



"I just wanted to let you know how much I like the new web site to report quarterly wages... it was easy," raves one happy employer. Employer usage of the program has more than doubled since the new version of WOW went live in June 2005. "We hope the number of users will continue to rise, and we have made even more improvements to help make it happen," said Unemployment Administrator Roy Mulvaney.

The WOW application now allows employers to upload a text file containing employee and wage information. That's right, employers can upload their quarterly wage listings from a text file with a .csv extension. A .csv file can be created in MS-Excel or by using the "Export" function of most accounting software packages. For more information and instructions on the WOW employee/wage file upload, log on to http://uid.dli.mt.gov/warp/WOW_Upload_Instructions.pdf.

If you would prefer a demonstration of WOW before officially registering, simply enter <http://uid.dli.mt.gov/warp/demo/logon1.html> in your browser. This demo shows seven of WOW's screens along with a brief explanation of each screen and its functions. Go from logging in to making a payment with this step-by-step example of filing quarterly UI tax and wage information online.

WOW uses SSL/HTTPS and 128-bit encryption that ensures confidential information is safely transferred over the Internet so employers can rest easy as they make ACH debit payments online.

For more information, log on to <http://uid.dli.mt.gov> and click on the WARP on the Web icon or call (406) 444-6963.



REDUCING AN EMPLOYEE'S HOURS MAY AFFECT YOUR UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Author: Shirley Rush

An increasing number of unemployment claims filed in Montana are for partial unemployment. These claimants are required to be "seeking and available for" full time work. We rely on and thank you – the employer community – for providing unemployment insurance for your employees and ensuring its proper administration by responding to our requests for information.

Unemployment Insurance is provided to employees in the event they become unemployed *through no fault of their own or for good cause attributable to the employment*. The Unemployment Insurance Division investigates each claim, relying on both parties to provide timely and accurate information, allowing benefits to be paid correctly to those who qualify, and employer premiums to be adjusted based on claims paid.

A common misconception is that a person must be "completely unemployed" to qualify for unemployment insurance. Not so – a person may qualify if employed less than full time due to a work reduction by the employer. It is important for an employer to know that their account is charged for benefits if there is a reduction of 10 percent or more in the hours of an employee.

Employer notices are sent to determine both claimant eligibility and resultant employer charges. If no response is received from the employer, benefits may be paid out and accounts charged in error. Only those employees who have their work reduced by the employer should qualify for partial benefits due to reduced hours.

However, if a person accepts less than full time work, and there is no reduction or change in that job, that employer should not be charged for any partial benefits paid to the claimant. In addition, if the employee requests the reduction in hours, they would not be eligible for benefits, as the program requires a person to work all hours available to them. A person who works more than one job may have a reduction in one and file a claim. All employers will be notified – not just the one who reduced hours – so it can be confusing if you receive a notice. Your immediate response will ensure you are not charged if you did not reduce your worker's hours.

More and more in today's labor market, full time work is not readily available, or a job is considered to be full-time at less than 40 hours per week. Employers may very well have legitimate business reasons to reduce hours or hire for adaptive schedules. However, part-time workers may be costing companies in the long run, if they are supplementing their income with UI benefits.

You can help save money. When your company receives a separation notice, or a notice of a potential charge, your immediate call, fax, or mailed response will help us to protect the UI Trust Fund and administer timely benefits to those eligible.